UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

) ECF CASE
) Case No. 1:11-cv-00017-JGK
)
) CIVIL COMPLAINT
))) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
)

COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

COMES NOW, Plaintiff, Barbara Humphrey, by and through her undersigned counsel, Bruce K. Warren, Esquire of Warren & Vullings, LLP complaining of Defendant and respectfully avers as follows:

I. <u>INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT</u>

1. Plaintiff, Barbara Humphrey, is an adult natural person and brings this action for actual and statutory damages and other relief against Defendant for violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA"), which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices.

II. JURISDICTION

- 2. Jurisdiction of this court arises under 15. U.S.C. § 1692k(d) and 28 U.S.C. §1337.
- 3. Venue in this District is proper in that Defendant maintains a primary office here and transacts business in this District.

III. PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff, Barbara Humphrey, is an adult natural person residing at 6201 SE 84 Avenue, Portland, OR 97266. At all times material and relevant hereto, Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a (2).
- 5. Defendant, Allied Interstate, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of iQor, Inc. at all times relevant hereto, is and was a privately held corporation engaged in the business of collecting debt in this State, with a principal place of business located at 335 Madison Avenue, 27th Floor, New York, NY 10017.
- 6. Defendant is engaged in the collection of debts from consumers using the telephone and mail. Defendant regularly attempts to collect consumer debts alleged to be due to another. Defendant is a "debt collector" as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

7. Starting in or around July 2010, Defendant began to regularly place phone calls to Plaintiff by using recorded messages that ask for the recipient to return a phone call to their offices.

- 8. After months of frustration and dozens of phone calls, Plaintiff returned calls to Defendant on several occasions in September 2010 to explain that she was not the person they are attempting to reach.
- 9. Defendant's agents assured Plaintiff that their calls would stop during all phone calls to Defendant.
- 10. The calls did cease until October 7, 2010, when Defendant resumed their calls and Plaintiff now receives one automated phone call per day.
- 11. Plaintiff has no established business relationship with Defendant and does not owe any debt that Defendant may be attempting to collect.
- 12. Defendant acted in a false, deceptive, misleading and unfair manner by threatening to take action that it did not intend to take for the purpose of coercing Plaintiff to pay the debt.
- 13. Defendant knew or should have known that their actions violated the FDCPA. Additionally, Defendant could have taken the steps necessary to bring their and their agent's actions within compliance of the FDCPA, but neglected to do so and failed to adequately review those actions to insure compliance with the law.
- 14. At all times pertinent hereto, Defendant was acting by and through it agents, servants and/or employees, who were acting with the scope and course of their employment and under the direct supervision and control of Defendant herein.
- 15. At all times pertinent hereto, the conduct of Defendant as well as its agents, servants and/or employees, was malicious, intentional, willful, reckless, negligent and in wanton disregard for federal and state law and the rights of the Plaintiff herein.
- 16. Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer mental anguish and emotional distress resulting in actual damages as a consequence of Defendant's unlawful conduct.

- 17. As a direct consequence of Defendant's acts, practices and conduct, Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, dear, frustration and embarrassment.
- 18. Defendant's conduct was so outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

COUNT I – FDCPA

- 19. The above paragraphs are hereby incorporated herein by reference.
- 20. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant was attempting to collect an alleged debt which was incurred by the Plaintiff for personal, family or household purposes and is a "debt" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 21. The foregoing acts and omissions constitute violations of the FDCPA, including but not limited to, violations of 15 U.S.C. § 1692:
 - § 1692c(a)(1): At any unusual time, unusual place, or unusual time or place known to be inconvenient
 - § 1692c(b): With anyone except consumer, consumer's attorney, or credit bureau concerning the debt
 - § 1692d: Any conduct that natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress or abuse any person
 - § 1692e: Any other false, deceptive or misleading representation or means in connection with the debt collection

§ 1692e(10): Any false representation or deceptive means to collect a debt or obtain

information about a consumer

§ 1692f: Any unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to

collect the alleged debt

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this court enter judgment in her favor and against Allied Interstate, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of iQor, Inc., for the following:

a. Actual damages;

b. Statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k;

- c. Reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k; and
- d. Such addition and further relief as may be appropriate or that the interests of justice require.

V. <u>JURY DEMAND</u>

Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial as to all issues herein.

Respectfully submitted,

WARREN & VULLINGS, LLP

Date: December 29, 2010 BY: /s/ Bruce K. Warren

Bruce K. Warren, Esquire

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